per State of Forest Report, 1991) and that of recorded forest area is 28.9%.

Japan's assistance for completing forest projects

205. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in February 1994 Japan announced to provide assistance amounting to crores of rupees for completing the forest projects in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what is the quantum of this amount together with the names of the forest projects on which the same would be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) A Fact Finding Mission of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan held a meeting in New Delhi on 4th February, 1994 with the representatives of the Government of Himachal Pradesh and Ministry of Environment and Forests to discuss the feasibility of a forestry project of Himachal Pradesh. The OECF, Japan did not indicate any commitment for providing assistance for the project.

Constitution of Paryavaran Vahinis in Gujarat

206. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of districts in Gujarat where Paryavaran Vahinis have been constituted so far;

(b) the details of the work undertaken and the success achieved so far;

(c) the assistance provided by the Central Government to the Gujarat State for this purpose, district-wise;

(d) whether more districts are proposed to be included under this scheme for the protection of environment and forests;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Paryavaran Vahinis have been constituted in three districts out of the four districts selected in Gujarat so far.

(b) No specific report has been received about the details of the work undertaken so far.

(c) Financial assistance given to the State Government district-wise is as follows:—

Ahmedabad.....	Rs. 57,500
Valsad.....	Rs. 57,500
Vadodara	Rs. 57,500
Dangs.....	Rs. 23,500

in Dangs the second instalment has not been released as the Vahini is yet to be constituted.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The additional districts would be selected on the basis of incidence of pollution and density of forests and tribal population.

(f) Does not arise.

Pollution in Rivers

207. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all the small and big rivers, including the Yamuna, flowing through the West Uttar Pradesh, are heavily polluted by the untreated effluents being discharged into these rivers by the industrial units, especially the sugar mills, distilleries,- paper mills and chemical factories;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the water of these rivers has become unusable for drinking as well as

irrigation purposes;

(c) whether it is a fact that this pollution has seeped into underground water too making well and hand pump water unconsumable;

(d) if so, what are the names of such industrial units;

(e) what action has been taken or is being taken against the erring units; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board has identified the polluting stretches of rivers—River Yamuna from Okhla to Etawah, River Kali Downstream of Modinagar to confluence with River Ganga and River Hindon from Saharanpur to confluence with River Yamuna in western Uttar Pradesh where the existing quality does not meet the desired level as per designated best use criteria. The water quality in these stretches is not suitable for drinking purpose but it is suitable for irrigation. The river water pollution is mainly due to discharge of untreated sewage and to some extent due to industrial waste waters. Central distillery & Breweries Meerut Cantt., has not installed secondary treatment plant and the secondary effluent treatment plant of M/s Modi distillery Ghaziabad is under construction. The effluent treatment plants of U.P. State Sugar Corporation, Buland Shahar and Ayodhya Sugar Mills, Moradabad are under construction.

(c) and (d) According to a study conducted by Central Ground water Board in Uttar Pradesh the nitrate concentration in 99% samples is less than 20 mg/litre. However, nitrate contamination has been found ranging from 300 to 694 mg/litre in the districts of Unnao, Hamirpur, Jhansi and Meerut. The sources of such pollution have been identified as soak pits, septic tanks, unlined sewage drains and abandoned wells used for dumping wastes. The study conducted in Saharanpur district with reference to Paper industry indicates that groundwater is being polluted due to high concentration of Manganese, Copper and Lead.

(e) The State Pollution Control Board has been asked to take legal action against the erring units.

(f) Does not arise.

"वन नीति" के अधीन वन प्रबंध में लोगों की भागीदारी

208. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने "वन नीति" के अधीन वनों के प्रबंधन में लोगों की भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसे प्रत्येक राज्य में किस प्रकार क्रियान्वित किया जा रहा है; और

(ग) पिछले दो वर्षों में इस दिशा में कितनी प्रगति हुई है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) राष्ट्रीय वन नीति, 1988 में वनों की सुरक्षा और विकास में लोगों को शामिल करने की परिकल्पना की गई है। इस संदर्भ में, भोगाधिकार में हिस्सेदारी के आधार पर अवक्रमित वन भूमि के पुनरूद्धार के कार्य में स्वैच्छिक एजेंसियों और ग्राम समुदायों को शामिल करने के लिए राज्य/संघ राज्य क्षेत्र सरकारों को दिशा-निर्देश जारी किए गए हैं।

(ख) और (ग) इन दिशा-निर्देशों पर अनुवर्ती कार्रवाई के रूप में आन्ध्र प्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, जम्मू और कश्मीर, कर्नाटक, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, उड़ीसा, राजस्थान, तमिलनाडु, त्रिपुरा, पश्चिम बंगाल राज्यों ने वन सुरक्षा और प्रबंध समितियां बनाकर भोगाधिकार में हिस्सेदारी के आधार पर अवक्रमित वनों के प्रबंधन के लिए आदेश जारी कर दिए हैं।